

## Where The Burges Command Has Been Fighting In France; Is Now Resting Up At Flagny

FIRST DETAILED STORY OF EL PASOANS' ACTIVITIES

MORE than 100 El Paso boys are members of Maj. W. H. Burges' company in the 1st Infantry, and as yet a full detailed statement giving the complete fighting record of El Paso's home company has been lacking. Below there is the complete story, which should appeal to mothers and fathers of El Paso boys who served under Maj. Burges. This record is compiled by Wm. V. Curtis, of the headquarters company, 1st Infantry, an El Paso boy who served as observer and intelligence messenger throughout the entire campaign.

Wm. V. Curtis is a brother of J. S. Curtis and was formerly a member of the firm of J. S. Curtis & Co., before he went overseas with the 1st Infantry. Many of Maj. Burges' friends state that the latter holds in the most careful and simple statement of facts yet received from the El Paso delegation in France.

Arrived On August 7.

"We landed at Brest on August 7 and rested there three days. In a wheat field on the outskirts of town. The next move was from Brest to Bar-sur-aube, 38 hours on the train. We arrived there about 2 p. m. on the morning of August 12. After a few hours' rest we were ordered to move over the hills in Champagne. This was the first step. We had been traveling steadily since July 16, the day we left Camp Bowie. After three or four days at Champanet, all intelligence units were ordered to a divisional school at Mezier on the left. School lasted about two weeks and then we returned to Champanet. The move toward the front started September 24. This will be a momentous trip to me as we had 27 hours with nothing to eat. At Bar-sur-aube we were ordered to move on the morning of September 24. We moved about midnight of the 24th. Everything was as dark as Egypt and no lights were permitted and the guns on the front could be plainly heard. It began to look like business then and some of our leading pacifists were thoroughly satisfied. Let me advise you here to get a good map of France so that you can follow our route.

Leaving Epemay, we made a small hike of 15 kilometers to Aulnay-sur-Maine. By this time everyone was

tired out and we stopped for six days. This takes me down to Oct. 5. Nothing happened at Aulnay except that I was able to see an aerial battle through our telescope while observing.

Going Into Action.

"On the morning of the 5th we left Aulnay in trucks and went northeast through Châlons to Somme Suppe. Everything in the place was camouflaged and there were armored ambulances, tanks and all kinds of war apparatus. At 7 in the morning orders came to roll our packs and be ready to move at once. Even the most doubtful were satisfied when we moved out of town in a northeasterly direction.

"After an hour's hike, business commenced to 'pick up' and we came across German helmets of dead bodies, French and American equipment of every imaginable sort. There were salvaged details collecting everything of value. Our first real score was when an airplane flew over us and some one off on the left flank threw three grenades and yelled: 'Die under cover.' When the smoke cleared away it turned out to be an allied plane. It was merely a joke on French troops.

"About 2 o'clock we reached the old Hindenburg line at Somme. Everywhere there were signs of the fighting and none of it more than three days old. About 5 o'clock news leaked out that we (the 1st brigade) were to relieve the second division. About 7 o'clock we were ordered to move on. About half an hour later orders came to throw away all packs, leaving us only our rifles, belts, mess kits, raincoats and 270 rounds of ammunition.

Under Fire.

"Things were pretty lively on all sides after we started. The boys' artillery had a pretty good line on the road and before we had gone far they put a shell into the leading square and three or four men were killed. We moved on, passed our artillery, and then headquarters was detached from the rest of the regiment. The first battalion went into line, and the intelligence section went to regimental headquarters, which was a small shack with a good sized dugout under it. When I arrived, the hole and house were full, so two of us slept out in the

open, barricaded by a trench mortar and two dead horses. On the morning of Monday, the 7th, we were right in the midst of the festivities. Things were quiet just long enough for me to fill my canteen and then the artillery started up again. They peppered headquarters, ration dumps, cross roads and everything visible. The country was hilly and wooded, where we were, sloping off gradually into more rolling and open land.

El Pasoans "Over The Top."

"The day passed quickly, and on Tuesday, the 1st brigade went 'over the top' at 4:30 a. m. The attack was successful and we drove Fritz back about a kilometer and a half. I went to the front lines about 3 o'clock, while the fight was still in progress, with a couple of messages. Things were pretty warm but I came through all right.

"On the way back, however, I got behind some French tanks, and of all the shelling I ever saw, they sure did get it.

"The next two days were fairly quiet except for artillery. Thursday afternoon at 4:30 we made our second advance. Instructions to the intelligence section were to advance 200 yards ahead of the first wave, reach the objective, and report 'O. K.' to the regimental commander. There was no artillery preparation and at 4:30 p. m. we moved out, and I guess most every one had his doubts about coming back.

Back As Reserves.

"We reached our objective and dug in for the night with the rest of the outfit. The next thing on the schedule was a two hour gas bombardment with shrapnel pretty plentifully mixed in. In addition to this there were snipers and machine guns in a patch of woods about 50 yards in front of us. Nine of us were in an old shell hole—we dug in with a shovel, a cup, bayonet and mess kit.

About midnight, things quieted down and three of us crawled out and made another shell hole about a mile back and stayed there until daylight. We got into headquarters about 7 o'clock. At the same time our brigade was relieved by the 72nd and they advanced at daylight. However, the boys had made good use of the darkness and had started a general retreat.

The Boys' Methods.

"On Saturday we started advancing.

## WHERE BURGES'S MEN HAVE BEEN

Detailed Account of Activities of El Paso Command in France.

In reserve, and went northeast and through Machault, Leffincourt, and two days later came into the town of Vaux-Champagne, about three kilometers from the Aisne river. Everything on the road the scenes were typical—what could not be carried with the Germans was destroyed. Several miles were left at different places, but luckily no one was injured by them. Our headquarters was established at Vaux-Champagne, and the front lines were right on the banks of the Aisne. We had moved forward so rapidly that we had to wait several days for the French on the right to catch up. Eight of us moved into a French house, located a quarter of a mile back, a sack of flour, ten pounds of butter, a sack of apples, sugar, coffee, lard and bread and set up our own mess. We lived better than the general staff for a week and then orders came for headquarters to be moved to Caumont. It was not far and so we moved all our stuff with us. Supplies were not hard to get and the good living continued. All this time, there was very little activity on our section, and we did not have much work.

Another Successful Advance.

"At Caumont, we moved into what had been a German dispensary, and lived better than anyone. The boys still put a few shells at meal time and there was a good deal of aerial activity. On the 24th, various rumors of another advance began to circulate. We had been in line then 11 days and were wondering when relief would come. However, nothing happened until the afternoon of the 25th. Artillery had been coming up steadily for the past ten days and at 4:15 they opened up. The barrage lasted about 15 minutes and was certainly successful. The infantry advanced behind it and captured several machine guns and a trench mortar.

The Next Day We Were Relieved and This Finishes My Account of Active Service on the Champagne front.

The Hard Side of It.

"There are many side issues and interesting experiences, as well as some amusing ones. My personal account of the war is as much as the average man and was in a couple of unusual places and was better posted than almost any. There is the end of it—those who were killed and wounded—but they got up a real fight and not the fear of God into all the Germans who got in their way. The 1st brigade was twice cited by the French general staff, both corps and army commanders.

"If you have your map now, note our course back from the front and where we have finally ended up. We moved back to Machault, through San Eloi, Somme, back to Somme Suppe, Somme, back to Vaux, then to Givry. Here we rested a day and then went to Vauxcourt, arriving there on the second of this month. The regiment rested ten days at Vauxcourt and while there I was detached to brigade headquarters. Just a day before our rest was up, the armistice was signed and all plans were changed.

Now At Flagny.

"On the 15th we left Lauppe le chateau (near Vauxcourt) and started our march southward. Follow our course and you will see how we finally came back through Bar-sur-aube and Champanet again. November 15th at Comble, 5th November 21st, near Aisne; 22nd, Lambrun; 23rd, St. Pierre; 24th, Leval; 25th, Bar-sur-aube; 26th, Champanet; 27th, 28th, Estenoy; 29th, Chacres and from there to Flagny, where we now are. Future plans are uncertain and will probably be here for some time."

AND HE DID

SINGLE LIFE IS PRETTY LONELY. I THINK I'LL GET MARRIED SO AS TO HAVE COMPANY THROUGH LIFE!



AND HE DID



LOOK AT CHILD'S TONGUE IF SICK CROSS, FEVERISH

When constipated or bilious give "California Syrup of Figs."

Look at the tongue, mother! It coated. It is a sure sign that your little one's stomach, liver and bowels need a gentle, thorough cleansing at once.

When peevish, cross, listless, pale, doesn't sleep, doesn't eat or act naturally, or is feverish, stomach sour, breath bad, bad stomach, sore throat, diarrhoea, full of cold, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the soul, constipated waste, undigested food and sour bile gently moves out of the little bowels, gripes and you have a well, playful child again. You needn't coax sick children to take this harmless "fruit laxative," they love its delicious taste, and it always makes them feel splendid. Ask your druggist for a bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups. It is the only laxative that is so gentle and so sure. To be sure you get the genuine, ask to see that it is made by "The California Fig Syrup Company." Refuse any other kind with contempt.—Ad.

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